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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**3 DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN
STATEWIDE OXYCONTIN DRUG TRAFFICKING RING**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today the sentencing of three defendants, all of Baltimore, who pled guilty to an indictment charging them with participating in a statewide Oxycontin drug trafficking ring. John Lee Fulton, Jr., age 45, was sentenced on January 27, 2005 to 156 months of imprisonment for the drug conspiracy and for his role in a Medicaid fraud conspiracy. He was also ordered to pay restitution to Medicaid in the amount of \$345,100 for the fraudulent prescriptions obtained through that program. Curtis Sample, age 50, was sentenced yesterday to 57 months of imprisonment for his role in the drug conspiracy. Sherry Heavel, age 31, was sentenced today to 46 months of imprisonment on the drug conspiracy count and for misbranding prescription drugs.

During the period from February, 1999 to the end of November, 2003, the organization is believed responsible for over 2,000 fraudulent prescriptions for drugs such as Oxycontin, Roxicet, Endocet and Percocet. The indictment, which charged a total of thirteen defendants, was the result of a 2-year long investigation by a joint task force which included the United States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the

Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Food and Drug Administration, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the Baltimore County Police Department, the Howard County Police Department, and the Montgomery County Police Department.

Nine other defendants have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing; the remaining defendant, Henry Muldrow, is scheduled for trial in June of this year.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Donna C. Sanger and Bryan Foreman.